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COUNTRY Hungary

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SUBJECT Plans of the Hungarian Air Force

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The Hungarian Ministry of Defense completed plans in March 1948 for the future size and organization of the Hungarian Air Force. It established an Air Corps Command (Repúlé Hadosztály Parancsnokság) consisting of the following departments:

Chief of Staff Department (Vezérkari Osztály) Corps Staff Department (Hadosztály Törzs)

Consists of Military Section, Personnel Section, Intendant's Section (Hadbistosi Osztály), Construction Section and a Judge Advocate Section.

The following Corps Auxiliaries are under the direct command of the Air Corps: Weather Service, Air Raid Service, Construction and Maintenance Work, Workshops, Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

2. The Air Force shall consist of:

One Pursuit Air Group: Composed of two squadrons, each squadron consisting of three flights. One flight shall contain twelve type L.A.-7 (Lavockin) planes, and three reserve planes which will be jet propelled planes modeled after an unnamed German type.

One Fighter Squadron: Composed of three flights, each flight having twelve plus three planes. The planes will be type I.L.-2 (Istrepitjele).

Four Short Range Reconnaissance Flights: Each flight is directly subordinated to the respective army division (only two short range reconnaissance flights will be activated for the time being). The flights will consist of 12 plus three type P.O.-2 (Poruckin) planes.

Two Intercepter Flights: Composition unknown.

One Independent Squadron: Under the Military Chief of Staff. Composition unknown.

3. There will be flight elements for courier service consisting of type P.O.-2 (Poruckin) and Russian-made Martin D.C.-23 planes. The number of planes is undetermined.

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- 4. The Ministry of Communication returned the airport of Ferihegy to the Ministry of Defense. The airport is now under reconstruction and is designated as the future military airbase of Budapest. The only unit existing at this time, the Pilot School Company, formerly at Szolnok, recently moved to this base and is headed by Major Andor Lang, a Communist. This unit will probably be the nuclea of the future Pursuit Air Group.
- 5. It is planned to reconstruct the airfields of Kaposvar, Pecs, Deg, Matyasfold, Szolnok and Keskemet. It has been agreed that one Pursuit squadron will be stationed at Ferihegy, one reconnaissance equadron at Kecskemet, and an additional, but unknown, unit will be stationed at Börgönd, and another one at Szekesfehérvar when the latter is returned to the Hungarian Ministry of Defense by the Russians.
- 6. According to the source, these plans shall be activated by fall (1948). He claims that one Soviet observer will be attached to each unit. During March, the Hungarian Government did not possess the necessary equipment and weapons. Pilots are to have one year's training course.
- 7. As of March, the Maszovlet Soviet-Hungarian Air Transport Company used the following airports: Miskolc, Nyiregymáza, Debrecen, Békescsaba (formerly used only for light, so-called "sport" planes), Szeged, Ferihegy, Budaörs, Kaposver, Pécs and Szombathely. On these fields no military activity was observed prior to March 1948. The Hungarian Ministry of Defense had only three fields in limited use: Szolnok, Kecskendt and Matyasföld. The airfields of Börgönd, Veszprém-Szentkirályszabadja, Tapolca, Székesfehérvar, Pépa, Kiskunlachaza, Kenyeri, Kunmadaras, are either occupied by Soviet forces or are not in operating condition. At Kunmadaras one of the largest structures under construction will be able to house heavy bombers.
- 8. The airfield at Székesfehérvar houses the headquarters of a Soviet Air Force unit (unidentified), repair shops, and a few flights of Soviet planes. Runcadaras is also occupied by the Soviets, but no planes are stationed here. At the Kenyeri Airfield there are reportedly about 1,000 light pursuit and reconnaissance planes parked. At Papa Airfield source saw approximately 1,500 pursuit and reconnaissance planes including a few light bombers, but he observed no activity on the field.
- 9. Russian authorities requested the Hungarlan Ministry of Defense in September 19h7 to purchase in the sector of Sopron-Győr-Tapolca-Szombathaly adequate land for the establishment of approximately ten small airfields. The field sites were designated by the Soviets and the Ministry of Defense was requested to put them at the disposal of Soviet Air Forces after they had been completed. The land purchase for airfields has been confirmed by a recently discharged member of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who claims that land has been purchased for airfields at Eszterhaza a/d Neusidler See. During World War II, this ground was an anti-aircraft artillery training center.
- 10. In source's estimation, Red Army Forces in Hungary totaled approximately 20,000 to 25,000 in March. There are no Red Army soldiers in small towns and villages. Szombathely seems to have the largest concentration of Red Army soldiers.